

Welcome to Finding Home™'s second annual newsletter!



We're happy to share this year's highlights and successes with you – our friends, partners and colleagues:

We would like to thank all of our Clients, Partners & Funders:

Alexandra Neighbourhood House, Association of Neighbourhood Houses of BC, BC211, BC Association of Community Response Networks, BC Centre for Elder Advocacy & Support, Greater Victoria Eldercare Foundation, Government of Canada, New Horizons For Seniors Program (HRSDC), Immigrant Services Society of BC, North Shore Neighbourhood House, John Braithwaite Community Centre, Kiwassa Neighbourhood House, Little Mountain Neighbourhood House, Province of British Columbia, Mosaic, Saanich Parks & Recreation, South Vancouver Neighbourhood House, United Way of the Lower Mainland, University of British Columbia.

Free Posters Download Finding Home™ posters created with the dialogue participants on our website. Find posters about Elder Respect, Housing, How To Spot A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing, and much more. Use the posters to help create age-friendly communities in your neighbourhood. To download these posters, visit www.findinghome.ca/posters.

Iranian Seniors River Party

During Finding Home™ Iranian Seniors Dialogues at John Braithwaite Community Centre and the North Shore Neighbourhood House, dialogue participants shared stories about the meaning of home, how to live well together, and tips for newcomer Iranians on how to create home in Canada. Throughout the dialogues, participants expressed the importance rivers play in creating home for them. One dialogue participant broke into song about the Karoun River in southern Iran and told us that all human beings should see this river; because once you see this river you will know the love of the world. Consequently, we hosted their celebrating success event at a local North Shore river, where the seniors, sang, read poetry, danced, gave speeches and shared food. Now these creative and inspiring seniors are busy preparing for BC Rivers Day where they hope to share their love of rivers with the wider community. For more information, contact Claudine Claridge at cclaridge@jbcc.ca.



Iranian Seniors Celebrate Rivers



Finding Home™
How to Belong in a Changing World

Multicultural Fables Help Prevent Elder Financial Abuse

You may have heard of the story of the Wolf In Sheep's Clothing but have you heard about the Monkey and Two Cats or the Fox and the Crow? We celebrated the launch of the Elders Financial Abuse Awareness Dialogue Project with seniors from ethno-cultural communities sharing fables that teach people to be wary of those who might trick or take advantage of them.

Through partnering with Neighbourhood Houses, immigrant service providers and seniors organizations, we implemented the Finding Home™ dialogue and community engagement model in three ethno-cultural communities in the Lower Mainland. In the dialogues, participants identified root causes of elder financial abuse in their diverse communities and generated ideas for projects to address these causes – ideas such as con artist prevention tips, transforming selfishness into kindness and caring, and fostering respect for elders. Participants are now leading the following innovative projects in their communities:



Afghan Puppet Show with a Purpose

∞ ***From Victims to Champions – A New North Shore Seniors Speakers Bureau***

Our first Finding Home™ seniors dialogue series on Elder Financial Abuse was with a multi-cultural seniors group hosted by *North Shore Neighbourhood House* and *John Braithwaite Community Centre*. During the dialogues participants explored the meaning of home, ways family members can take advantage of seniors, and strategies to prevent elder financial abuse. Out of the dialogues they have started a phenomenal **Victims To Champions Seniors Speakers Bureau** and have already spoken at Seniors Day, North Shore Services To Seniors Coalition, North Shore community policing, City Council, and have several other speaking gigs lined up. In addition, they have created a flyer on Tips on Personal Power for seniors and are currently working on a video project. For more information or to book these dynamic seniors as speakers in your community, contact Claudine Claridge at cclaridge@jbcc.ca.



Victims to Champions Seniors Speakers Bureau

☞ ***Afghan Puppet Show on Elder Financial Abuse***

During the Finding Home™ Afghan seniors dialogues, hosted by *Immigrant Services Society of BC*, participants explored the changing role of elders in their community, shared experiences of being respected versus disrespected, and generated solutions for addressing these challenges. Following the Finding Home™ Afghan seniors dialogues, the dialogue participants worked with puppet theatre artist Tamara Unroe and have created a remarkable show on the dynamics of elder financial and related abuse in their own communities. The puppet show has a message for youth about the importance of respect and a message for seniors to never give up and be creative in finding solutions. To book this puppet show in your community, contact Latifa Janwansheer at latifafareed@yahoo.com.



Finding Home™ Afghan Seniors dialogue participants prepare their puppet show on Elder financial abuse

☞ ***Sisters and Daughters Day – A New Punjabi Ceremony to Celebrate Girls!***

During Finding Home™ South Asian Punjabi seniors' dialogues at *South Vancouver Neighbourhood House*, participants explored the root cause of elder financial abuse in their communities. They all agreed one of the root causes was raising boys to be selfish. As they explored the different ways girls and boys are treated and taught in their community, they realized there are several ceremonies to celebrate boys and men's long lives and health but not the equivalent for girls and women. Consequently, this dynamic group of seniors have decided to start the first Sisters and Daughters Day to celebrate South Asian Punjabi girls long lives and health. Their goal is to promote equality and nurture values such as kindness and caring in both girls and boys. The first ceremony will be held on June 10th 2011 at Sunset Community Centre in Vancouver. For more information, contact Joan Wright at joan@southvan.org.



South Asian Punjabi Seniors Plan Sisters & Daughters Day Celebration

The Elders Financial Abuse Awareness Dialogue Project is a partnership between the Finding Home™ Initiative, the Association of Neighbourhood Houses of BC, North Shore Neighbourhood House, John Braithwaite Community Centre, Immigrant Services Society of BC, South Vancouver Neighbourhood House, Mosaic, BC Association of Community Response Networks, BC Centre for Elder Advocacy and Support. This project was funded by the Government of Canada, New Horizons Program with in kind contributions from the Province of BC, BC211 and the United Way of the Lower Mainland.

Seniors Spark Conversations Throughout Greater Victoria

In July, a dedicated group of seniors from Vancouver Island gathered for a Finding Home™ seniors dialogue series hosted by Greater Victoria Eldercare Foundation, Vancouver Island Health Authority and Saanich Parks and Recreation. Dialogue participants explored the meaning of home, loneliness and life transitions. They decided to turn their new awareness into action and have started of Conversation Cafes for seniors on topics such as staying healthy, transitions, housing and loneliness, throughout Greater Victoria area. Their Conversation Cafes are held at Tim Horton's, Recreation centres, community centres and apartment buildings. In addition, they have developed a fabulous flyer called "Social Skills for Shy Seniors" with practical tips on how to make and maintain new connections. For more information, contact Liz McCarter at Elizabeth.McCarter@viha.ca.



Vancouver Island Finding Home™ Seniors Dialogue Participants

Line Dancing Creates Home For Newcomer Chinese Seniors

We trained Chinese Canadian seniors at Little Mountain Neighbourhood House outreach skills so that they could recruit newcomer Chinese seniors to a Finding Home™ dialogue called, "Why Home Matters." Twenty seniors attended this training, leading them to successfully attract newcomer Chinese seniors to the Finding Home™ dialogue. During the dialogue, participants shared stories about what home means to them and they identified their priority finding home needs. Many voiced their desire for a place to be active and play ping pong, line dance and sing. The dialogue participants finalized a powerful Why Home Matters poster and worked with staff to develop programs to address their needs and host a celebrating success event. During the celebration, everyone got out of their chair and enjoyed line dancing. While people were line dancing, one participant told me, "It is only since joining this program that I have finally found home in Canada."



Chinese Newcomer Seniors Celebrate

More Highlights Visit our blog to learn more about seniors and elders tips and strategies on topics such as loneliness, financial abuse and housing: <http://jessiesutherland.ca>.

"Many thanks to our partners, colleagues and dialogue participants for making 2010 such a successful year. Wishing you a year full of opportunities to create home in your community."